

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, SOPN, TS

SUBJECT: POST'S INFORMATION ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF
U.S. INITIATIVES TO INFLUENCE NASC MEETING

REF: USIA 25209 CIRCULAR

1. EMBASSY EXPERIENCE IN DEALING WITH NASC OVER
PAST SEVERAL WEEKS CLEARLY INDICATES THAT USIS INVOLVE-
MENT IN SUCH COORDINATED DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS
AS U.S. INITIATIVE ON NASC CAN BE VERY HELPFUL. THIS
IS ESPECIALLY TRUE WHEN FRENCH TRANSLATIONS OF RELEVANT
SPEECHES, DOCUMENTS AND BACKGROUNDERS ARE MADE AVAILABLE
TO POSTS ON TIMELY BASIS THROUGH WIRELESS FILE, USINFO
OR
EPARTMENT CABLE. TRANSLATING DOCUMENTS AT POST
IS TIME CONSUMING AND RISKS INCONSISTENCIES WHICH COULD
BE CONFUSING OR WORSE. IN ONE CASE, EMBASSY WAS ABLE
TO RESPOND PROMPTLY OVER A WEEKEND TO FOREIGN MINISTRY
REQUEST FOR BACKGROUND MATERIALS ON PUERTO RICO BECAUSE
USEFUL FRENCH TRANSLATIONS HAD ALREADY BEEN SUPPLIED
BY WASHINGTON. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS IS NOT ALWAYS THE
ZCASE, AND THE DELAY AND CONFUSION WE EXPERIENCED IN
OBTAINING FRENCH TRANSLATION OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S
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SEATTLE SPEECH IS AN IMPORTANT EXAMPLE. OUR ABILITY

TO USE THIS IMPORTANT STATEMENT PROMPTLY AND EFFECTIVELY
WAS IMPEDED BY APPARENT LACK OF COORDINATION BETWEEN
DEPARTMENT AND USIA, BOTH OF WHOM PROVIDED (LATE)
ITS OWN AND SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT TRANSLATION .

2. AS TO OUR OWN APPROACH IN GEARING UP FOR COLOMBO
MEETINGS, EMBASSY DREW UP A LIST OF PARTICIPANTS,
POLICYMAKERS AND PUBLIC OPINION LEADERS WHOM WE THOUGHT
MIGHT HAVE A DIRECT IMPACT ON GOT POSITIONS TO BE TAKEN
AT NASC. INDIVIDUALS ON LIST, WHICH WAS MODIFIED AS
NEW PARTICIPANTS WERE ANNOUNCED, WERE PROVIDED POSITION
PAPERS IN FRENCH DRAWN FROM WASHINGTON-SUPPLIED MATERIAL
ON MIDEAST, KOREA, PUERTO RICO, PANAMA CANAL AND ON
U.S. RELATIONS WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.
THIS MATERIAL WAS CLEARLY IDENTIFIED AS TO ITS USG
SOURCE. AMBASSADOR ALSO ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS USED
USIS-SUPPLIED MATERIALS AND TRANSLATIONS IN CALLS ON
SENIOR OFFICIALS AND FOR DISTRIBUTION TO CORE GROUP
DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES.

3. EFFECTIVENESS OF THESE EFFORTS IS NATURALLY
DIFFICULT TO MEASURE, ESPECIALLY AS TUNISIA WAS HARDLY
A MOVER AND DOER AT COLOMBO. AS THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S
WEEKEND REQUEST INDICATES, HOWEVER, GOT HAS CONFIDENCE
IN RELIABILITY OF USIS/EMBASSY DOCUMENT AND BACKGROUND
MATERIAL, AND THIS CONFIDENCE IN OUR CREDIBILITY IS
USEFUL TO USIS AND EMBASSY'S ACTIVITIES IN BROADER
SENSE.
MULCAHY

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